

**WISCONSIN ENDANGERED RESOURCES REPORT #\_\_137\_\_**  
**STATUS OF THE TIMBER WOLF IN WISCONSIN**  
**PERFORMANCE REPORT 1 JULY 2007 THROUGH 30 JUNE 2008**  
**By Adrian P. Wydeven and Jane E. Wiedenhoeft**

**SUMMARY**

This report covers activities conducted from 1 July 2007 through 30 June 2008 on wolf conservation in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin DNR reclassified wolves from endangered to threatened in 1999 and delisted wolves to protected wild animals on 1 August 2004. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service downlisted wolves to threatened on 1 April 2003 but, following a federal district court ruling, relisted them as endangered on 31 January 2005. On 12 March 2007 wolves were removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species in Wisconsin and other portions of the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population segment. The 1999 Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan and 2007 Wolf Plan Addendum determined wolf management in the state, and this report follows the outline of those plans to describe wolf management activities.

Twenty-four wolves and 1 wolf-dog hybrid were live captured and fitted with radio collars in 2007 in 22 different packs. Seventy-three radio collared wolves and 2 hybrids were monitored during the study period. Mean territory size was 30.5 square miles for adult wolves, and 6499 square miles of the state was estimated to be occupied by territorial wolves. The minimum count for winter 2007-2008 was 537 to 564 wolves in 144 packs and 24 as loners, and included 520 to 545 wolves living outside Indian reservations in the state. Sixteen wolves being actively monitored died during the period and included: 1 shot illegally, 1 vehicle collisions, 2 accidental trapping, 3 euthanized depredators, 1 shot protecting domestic animals, 4 mange and disease, 1 other wolves and 3 unknown mortalities. A total of 92 wolves were found dead in the state and included the following mortality factors: 35 euthanized problem wolves, 3 landowner shooting, 24 vehicle collisions, 11 illegal shootings, 1 shot in trap, 4 accidental trapping, 5 died from mange, 2 died from other wolves, 7 died from unknown mortalities. Twelve of 66 live-captured wolves examined in 2007 had some mange. Reports of wolf observations were received from 50 counties. Fifty-four depredations on domestic animals occurred during the period and included 36 cattle killed, 12 cattle injured, 2 sheep killed, 1 horse killed, 2 horses injured, 12 dogs killed and 11 dogs injured. Thirty-two wolves and 1 wolf-dog hybrid were captured at depredations sites and were euthanized. Nonlethal methods were also used on many farms. Various other strategies for implementing the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan were also conducted during the period.

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**Appendix 1.** *Wolf pack territories 2007-2008. (mapped in Figure 2)*

<b>Pack Name</b>	<b>Map #</b>	<b>Year<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Collared Wolf</b>	<b># of radio locations</b>	<b># of other locations<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Area (Mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>
<b><u>Zone 1</u></b>						
Ada Lake	115	Approx.	none	0	4	NE
Alcohol Creek	81	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Amnicon River	10	Approx.	none	0	15	NE
Amsterdam Slough	23	Approx.	none	0	1	NE
Augustine Lake	93	1999	W229 <sup>c</sup>	0	7	NE
Averill Creek North	105	2008	W495 <sup>c</sup>	35	18	72.8
Averill Creek South	79	Approx.	none	0	5	NE
Bearsdale	41	2008	W625,W626,W615 <sup>c</sup>	74	7	53.2
Beaver Dam Lake	55	Approx.	none	0	8	NE
Bibon Swamp	46	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Bird Sanctuary	15	2008	W565 <sup>c</sup>	5	1	NE
Blue Hills North	32	Approx.	none	0	7	NE
Bootjack Lake	87	2008	W623 <sup>c</sup>	26	13	111.5
Bradley	102	2008	W617 <sup>c</sup>	23	2	22.6
Brush Creek	57	2002	M310 <sup>c</sup>	0	5	NE
Casey Creek	12	2008	W604,W633 <sup>c</sup>	41	3	37.4
Cedar Lake	97	Approx.	none	0	4	NE
Chain Lake	14	2008	W624 <sup>c</sup>	14	2	NE
Chase Brook	20	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Chequamegon Waters	77	Approx.	none	0	1	NE
Chippewa River	92	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Clearwater Creek	107	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Clifford	83	2008	W572 <sup>c</sup>	21	1	11.5
Crescent Flats	109	2007	W568 <sup>c</sup>	0	1	NE
Crex Meadow	24	Approx.	none	0	1	NE
Crotte Creek	16	2008	W602 <sup>c</sup>	33	5	25.5
Davis Lake	66	Approx.	none	0	8	NE
Delta	44	2008	W627 <sup>c</sup>	29	2	6.8
Dunbar	122	2008	W574 <sup>c</sup>	6	12	NE
Eage Creek	121	Approx.	none	0	6	NE
Echo Valley	54	2008	W622 <sup>c</sup>	5	7	NE
Eddy Creek	69	Approx.	none	0	5	NE
Escanaba Lake	112	2008	W500B <sup>c</sup>	35	12	81.1
Flag River	51	2007	W439, W561 <sup>c</sup>	0	3	NE
Foxboro	2	2008	W520	33	1	49.0
Frog Creek	36	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Ghost Lake	38	2008	W605 <sup>c</sup>	2	14	NE
Giant Pine	114	2008	M2749 <sup>c</sup>	34	9	93.4
Green Creek	75	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Harrison Hills	106	2008	W619 <sup>c</sup>	34	3	45.8
Haystack Corner	71	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Hellhole Creek	56	Approx.	none	0	6	NE
Hoffman Lake	89	2007	W621 <sup>c</sup>	9	6	NE
Holmes Lake	29	Approx.	none	0	1	NE
Hungry Run	60	Approx.	none	23	6	NE
Ino Swamp	45	Approx.	none	0	1	NE
Island Lake	123	Approx.	none	0	5	NE
Kidrick Swamp	76	Approx.	none	0	5	NE
Knowles Creek	120	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Lake Nebagamon	8	2007	W526 <sup>c</sup>	0	3	NE

**Appendix 1. Continued**

<b>Pack Name</b>	<b>Map #</b>	<b>Year<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Collared Wolf</b>	<b># of radio locations</b>	<b># of other locations<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Area (Mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>
Little Rice River	85	Approx.	none	0	6	NE
Little Rock Lake	99	2007	W572 <sup>c</sup>	0	2	NE
Log Creek	65	Approx.	none	0	4	NE
Magee Creek	91	2008	M726 <sup>c</sup>	35	1	20.2
Marheimie Creek	82	2008	W523 <sup>c</sup>	3	6	NE
Mason	47	2008	W510 <sup>c</sup>	32	4	17.6
McArthur Pine	116	2007	M3617 <sup>c</sup>	0	3	NE
Miles Lake	88	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Mondeaux Flowage	78	2003	W441 <sup>c</sup>	0	1	NE
Moose Lake	5	2008	W473 <sup>c</sup>	33	5	29.7
Moose Road	19	2008	W564	32	1	19.7
Moquah	49	Approx.	none	0	5	NE
Moreland Lake	9	Approx.	none	5	3	NE
Morgan Lake	119	2008	M719 <sup>c</sup>	33	4	74.2
Morrison Creek	96	Approx.	none	0	7	NE
Mud Lake	118	2007	M2738 <sup>c</sup>	0	5	NE
Murray's Landing	90	2007	M2701 <sup>c</sup>	4	2	NE
Musser Creek	84	Approx.	none	11	3	NE
Namekagon Barrens	17	2008	W620 <sup>c</sup>	4	4	NE
Nineweb Lake	113	2007	W499,W576 <sup>c</sup>	0	5	NE
North Empire	3	2008	W517,M3616 <sup>c</sup>	38	4	6NE
North Willow	100	2008	W461 <sup>c</sup>	17	21	48.1
O'Brien Lake	94	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Orienta Falls	52	Approx.	none	0	4	NE
Pelican Lake	110	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Pigeon Lake	43	2008	W615 <sup>c</sup>	20	5	13.4
Pikes Peak	6	2008	W616 <sup>c</sup>	33	4	15.0
Pine Creek	64	2008	M2739	34	0	27.1
Pine Lake	95	2008	W508 <sup>c</sup>	34	2	57.7
Pokegama River	1	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Poplar River	11	2007	W553,W571,W610 <sup>c</sup>	0	8	NE
Porcupine Lake	48	2004	W241 <sup>c</sup>	0	7	NE
Prairie River	108	Approx.	none	0	1	NE
Price Creek	67	2006	W608 <sup>c</sup>	0	3	NE
Rainbow Lake	42	2008	W570 <sup>c</sup>	19	2	57.9
Ranger Island	104	2004	G994,W479 <sup>c</sup>	0	10	NE
Riverside	18	Approx.	none	0	8	NE
Round Lake	70	2004	W457 <sup>c</sup>	0	1	NE
Sabin Lake	40	2008	M2737,W511 <sup>c</sup>	68	11	47.0
Seeley Hills	39	Approx.	none	0	9	NE
Shanagolden	61	2008	W475 <sup>c</sup>	31	5	86.3
Shoberg Lake	13	2008	W498 <sup>c</sup>	31	5	65.3
Siskiwit Lake	53	2003	W369 <sup>c</sup>	0	3	NE
Skinner Creek	73	2008	W608,W636 <sup>c</sup>	15	15	48.5
Smoky Hill	37	2008	W638 <sup>c</sup>	4	8	NE
Somo River	103	2006	W514 <sup>c</sup>	0	3	NE
South Empire	4	Approx.	none	3	3	NE
South Range	7	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Spirit Lake	80	2005	W456 <sup>c</sup>	0	6	NE
Spring Creek	74	Approx.	none	0	5	NE
Springbrook	34	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Sterling Barren	25	Approx.	none	0	4	NE

**Appendix 1. Continued**

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Stevens Lake	117	Approx.	none	0	4	NE
Stone Lake	111	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Stuntz Brook	22	1999	W295 <sup>c</sup>	0	3	NE
Swamp Creek	101	2008	W611 <sup>c</sup>	32	2	26.6
Thornapple River	68	Approx.	none	0	4	NE
Torch River	58	2008	W573 <sup>c</sup>	34	19	87.1
Tranus Lake	35	2008	W446 <sup>c</sup>	22	7	20.5
Tupper Creek	72	1998	W276 <sup>c</sup>	0	5	NE
Twin Lakes	50	2008	W501B,W629	32	3	51.7
Venison Creek	59	2005	W483 <sup>c</sup>	0	7	NE
Webb Creek	21	Approx.	none	0	7	NE
Weirgor Lake	31	2008	W606	33	0	37.9
West Firelane	62	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
White River	63	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Whitney Lake	98	2008	W649 <sup>c</sup>	9	13	43.1
Wintergreen	86	Approx.	none	0	11	NE
Wolf Creek	26	Approx.	none	0	4	NE
Wolf Lake	30	Approx.	none	0	4	NE
<b>Zone 1 Avg. territory size = 46.0 (n=34)</b>						
<b><u>Zone 2</u></b>						
Bear Bluff	135	Approx.	none	0	6	NE
Brushy Ridge	129	Approx.	none	0	7	NE
Cave's Creek	147	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Colburn	146	Approx.	none	0	5	NE
Eau Claire River	126	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Iron Run	127	2003	W309 <sup>c</sup>	0	3	NE
Lemonweir River	148	Approx.	none	0	0	NE
Mather	139	2008	W635 <sup>c</sup>	8	6	NE
McKenna	134	2007	W487 <sup>c</sup>	0	8	NE
Meadow Valley	137	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Noch Hanai	130	2008	W413 <sup>c</sup>	20	12	32.0
Rattail	144	2007	W338 <sup>c</sup>	0	5	NE
Seneca	143	2004	W341,W414 <sup>c</sup>	0	2	NE
Silo	140	2007	W484 <sup>c</sup>	0	4	NE
South Bluff	136	2008	W559 <sup>c</sup>	14	13	29.9
Starlight	133	Approx.	W569 <sup>c</sup>	16	3	NE
Turner Creek	138	2008	W559 <sup>c</sup>	5	1	NE
2-Korner	131	2007	W609 <sup>c</sup>	0	4	NE
Veedum	142	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Wedges Creek	128	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Wildcat Mound	132	2007	W569 <sup>c</sup>	0	7	NE
<b>Zone 2 Avg. territory size = 31.0 (n=2)</b>						
<b><u>Zone 3</u></b>						
Big Rib	152	Approx.	none	0	5	NE
Blue Hills South	33	Approx.	none	0	6	NE
Cary Bluff	153	Approx.	none	0	6	NE
Clam River	27	2007	M2715 <sup>c</sup>	0	2	NE
Ft. McCoy	141	Approx.	none	0	5	NE
Lake Noquebay	124	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Lamb's Creek	151	Approx.	none	0	0	NE
Mead	150	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
Miller Creek	149	Approx.	none	0	5	NE

**Appendix 1. Continued**

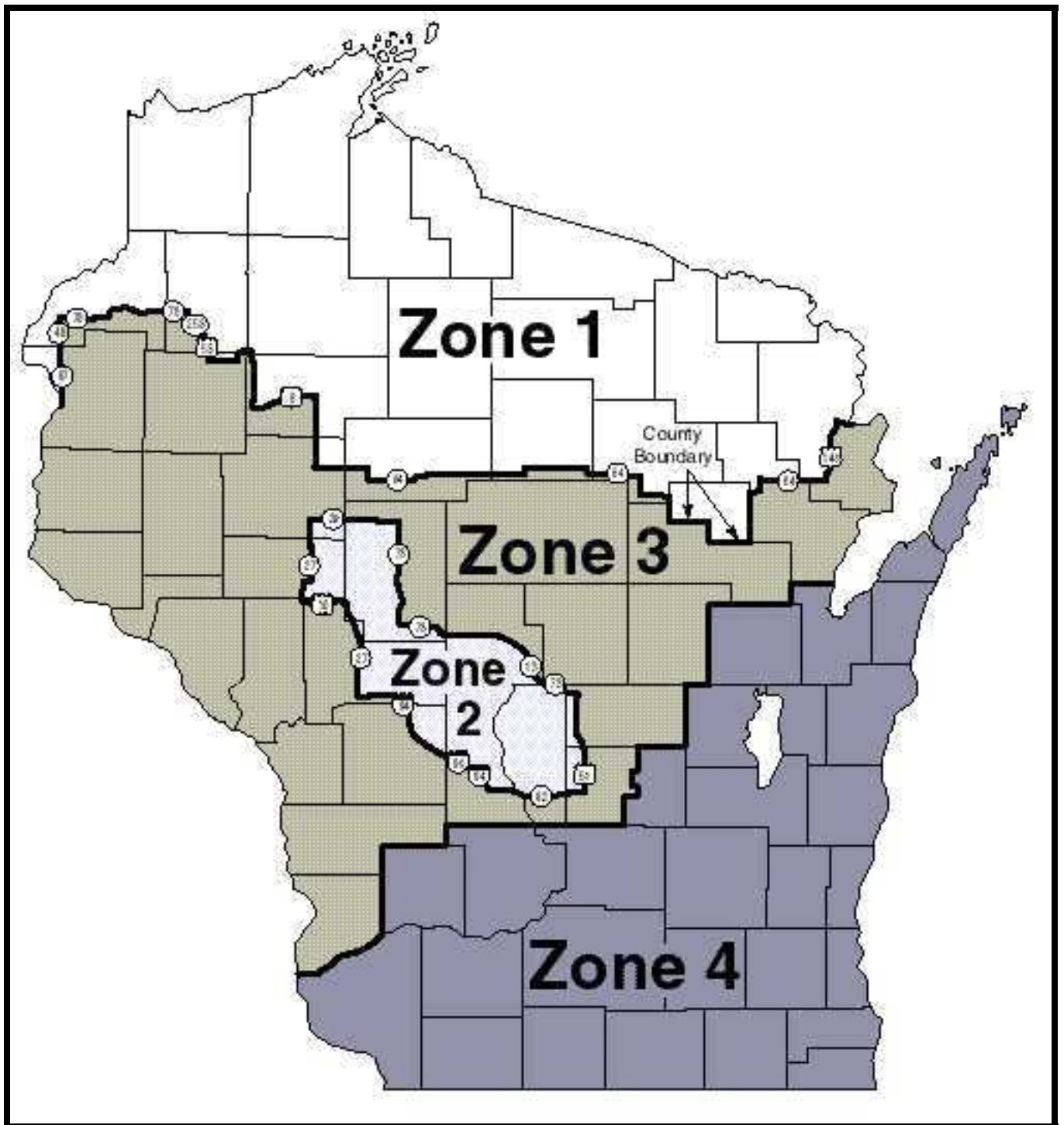
<b>Pack Name</b>	<b>Map #</b>	<b>Year<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Collared Wolf</b>	<b># of radio locations</b>	<b># of other locations<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Area (Mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>
Peshtigo Brook	125	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Sand Creek	28	Approx.	none	0	7	NE
Spence Lake	145	Approx.	none	0	2	NE
<b>Zone 3 Avg. territory size = NE</b>						
<b><u>MI &amp; MN Packs</u></b>						
Cheney Lake	154	Approx.	none	0	3	NE
Truck Trail	155	2008	W558 <sup>c</sup>	27	3	31.8

NE = No estimate

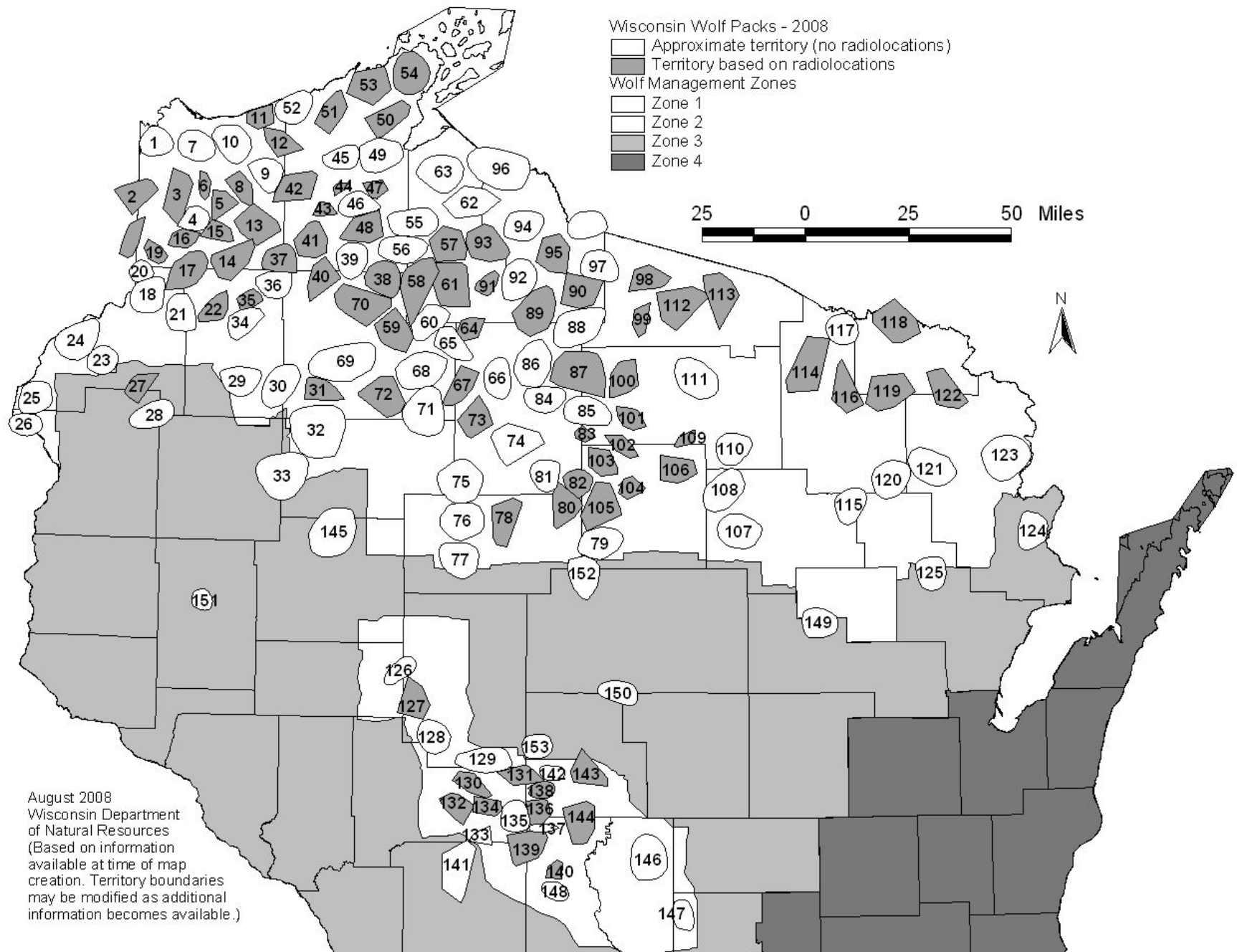
<sup>a</sup> Pack territory boundaries based on available radio locations between 15 April of the previous year to 14 April of the year listed. Approx = Territory boundaries were approximated based on track surveys, mortalities, depredations, public and agency reports, and historical location of pack.

<sup>b</sup> Other locations from track surveys, mortalities, depredations, & public and agency reports in 2007-2008.

<sup>c</sup> Territory boundaries based on radiolocations have been significantly modified based on additional location information for this pack and/or surrounding packs.



**Figure 1.** Wisconsin Wolf Management Zones as established by the 1999 State Wolf Management Plan.



**Figure 2.** Gray Wolf Distribution in Wisconsin: Winter 2007-2008 (Refer to Table 3 & Appendix 1)

**Figure 3. Changes in Wisconsin Gray Wolf Population: 1980-2008**

